56.

The Strange and Wonderful HISTORY
OF

Mother Shipton

Plainly ſetting forth
Her prodigious Birth, Life, Death, and Burial.
With an exact Collection of all her famous

PROPHECYS

More compleat than ever yet before publiſhed. And large Explanations, ſhewing how they have all along been fulfilled to this very YEAR.

Licenſed according to Order.

The History of Mother Shipton

CHAP. I.

Of Mother Shiptons strange Parentage, and the place of her Birth.

MOTHER SHIPTON (as all Histories agee) was a *Yorkshire* woman; but the particular place is *very* much disputed, because several Towns have pretended to the honour of *her Birth*; But the most credible and received opinion ascribes it to *Nasborough*, near the *dropping Well*, in the County aforesaid: concerning her *Pedigree* or *Parentage* there is likewise very *various Reports*. Some say, that her *Father* was a *Necromancer*, and that skill in the Black Art *thereby* became intail'd upon her by *inheritance*; but the con-

on Story (which *therefore* I shall follow, yet ithout forcing the *Reader* to believe it whe-er he will or no) is, That she never had any *ther* of humane Race, or *mortal wight*, but as begot (as the *great Welsh* Prophet *Merlin* as of old) by the Phantasm of *Apollo*, or some anton Airial *Dæmon*, in manner following. Her *Mother* (whom some Records call *Ar-tha*, and others *Emmatha*) being left an *Or-han* about the Age of sixteen, very *poor*, and uch *troubled* with that *grievous*, but com-on disease, called by some *Idleness*, and by thers *Sloth*; as she was once upon a time sit-ng, bemoning *her* self on a *shady* bank by the ighway side, this *spirit appear'd* to *her* in the ape of a very handsom young man, & smi-ng on her, *Pretty maid*, quoth he, *why dost ou sit so sad? Thou art not old enough to have y Head pestered with the cares of the World; ithee tell me the business, and doubt not but I ill help thee out of all thy troubles.* The Maid or Maids there *were* in those days at *her age*) sting up her eyes, and not suspecting a *devil* d in so comely a countenance, *related* to him r wants, and that she knew not how to live;

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 1205

pish! said he, *that's nothing, but be ruled by* *and thou shalt never lack*; she hearing him *p* *mise* so fairly, told him she would; and the upon to *draw her* in by degrees to *destructi* he *first* tempted her to *Fornication*, and p vailed so *far* as to gain her, but his Touch as she *afterwards* confessed to the Midwi were as cold as Ice *or* Snow. From this ti *forward* she was commonly once a day vi ted by her Hellish Gallant, and *never* want money, for *still* as she swept the House, s should find some odd pieces, as Ninepence *Quarters* of thirteen-pence-half-pennys, a the like, sufficient to supply *all* her occasio

CHAP. 2.

How Mother Shiptons *Mother proved w child; How she fitted the severe Justice, a what hapned at her delivery.*

THe *Neighbors* observing *Agatha* witho any Employ to live so *handsomly*, wo dred exceedingly how she came *by* it, but *w* more *surprized* shortly *afterward*, when th *perceiv'd* her to be with child, which she *co*

ot long hide, for *before her delivery*, she was
big as if she had gone with half a doz
ildren at once; whereupon she was carried be-
re a Justice, who chid & threatned *her* for her
incontinency, but he was soon silenced, for
s Wife and all his Family being present, *A-
tha* said to him aloud, *Mr. Justice, gravely
u talk now, and yet the truth is, your Wor-
ip is not altogether free, for here stands Two
f your Servant wenches, that are both at this
me with Child by you*; pointing to them se-
erally with her *finger*: at which both himself
nd the two Girls were so blank, that his wife
lainly saw what she said was true, and *there-
re* fell upon two *poor Harlots* like a *fury*, so
l Mr. Justice and the Constable could do was
ot enough to keep the peace, and the whole
mily was in such confusion, that *Agatha* for
at time was dismist, and soon after was
rought to bed in the Month of *July*, in the 4
ar of the Reign of K. *Henry* the 7th. which
as in the year of *our Lord*, 1488. Her *Travel*
as *very grievous*, and a most *terrible* Clap of
lunder hapned just as she was delivered of

this

this *strange birth*, which *afterward* was so
mous by the name of Mother *Shipton*. N
could the Tempest affright the women mo
than the prodigious Physiognomy of t
Child; the body was long, but very *big-bone*
great gogling eyes, very *sharp* and *fiery*, a N
of *unproportionable length*, having in it ma
crooks and *turnings*, adorned with *gr*
pimples, which like *vapours* of *brimstone* ga
such a *lustre* in the night, that *her Nurse* n
ded no *other* Candle to *dress her* by; and b
sides this uncouth shape, it was *observ'd*, th
as soon as she was born, she *fell* a *laughi*
and *grinning* after a *jeering manner*, and i
mediately the Tempest ceased.

CHAP. 3.

By what name mother Shipton *was christen*
and how her Mother went into a Monastery

THE Child being thus brought into t
World, under such *strange circumstan*
was (though not without some oppositio
ordered at last by the Abbot of *Beverly* to
christned, which was *performed* by the *nam*

rſula Soothtell: for the later was *her ma-*
ers, and consequently her Maiden Sirname
nd as for *Shipton*, it was the name of *her* hus-
and, whom ſhe afterwards *married*; as will
pear in the ſequel of this *Hiſtory*: and in this
rticular moſt of the Authors I've Read have
een fouly miſtaken. But to proceed, When
e was about two years old, *her* Mother co-
ing to be ſenſible of *her* evil, in holding a *cor-*
ſpondency with a wicked ſpirit, applying *her*
lf to ſeveral Religious men of *great note* in
oſe times, by whoſe *grave* advice ſhe grew
uly penitent, and (according to the faſhion
that Ages Devotion) put her ſelf into a
ighbouring Monaſtery, having *firſt* put out
r Child with a piece of Money to a *friend*,
d ſo ſpent the *remainder* of her days in the
nous Covent of the *order* of St. *Bridget*, near
ttingham, in *prayers* and *tears*, and other acts
Pennance, to expiate the wickedneſs of her
uth; but wonderful it is to *relate* the *trou-*
s that befel the *Nurſe* ſhe was put to, *for her*
ther, the foul Fiend, is *reported ſeveral* times
have viſited her, *particularly* one day the
rſe having been abroad, when ſhe *returned*

ſhe

1209

he found *her door* open, whereupon fearing
he was Robb'd, she call'd *three* or *four* neigh-
bours and their Wives to go into the hou
with her, but before they got well into th
Entry, they heard a strange noise, as if ther
had been a thousand Cats in *consort*, which s
dismaid them, that they all ran towards th
door, *endeavouring* to get out again, but in vai
for *every* one of them had got Yokes on thei
Necks, that they could not possibly *return*, bu
soon after the Yokes fell off, and then a Coul
staff was laid on 2 of the mens shoulders, up
on which an old woman presented her sel
stark naked, sometimes hanging by the heels
sometimes by the Toes, anon by the middle
with divers *other postures*, while the wome
having all *their coats* turned over *their ears*
exposed their shame to publick view, and s
continued till a *Fryer* accidentally came to th
house, and then they was suddenly released
but still the child having *been* taken out of th
Cradle, could not be found, till at *last* one of th
company *looking* by chance up the *chimny*, sa
it stark naked, sitting astride upon the *Ir*
to which the Pot-hooks was fastned, whenc

hey took it down without the *least hurt*, and
o *far* from being *frighted*, that it seemed by
s *monstrous smiles* to be very well pleased at
hese pleasant Exploits.

CHAP. 4.

Several other merry pranks plaid by Mother Shipton, in Revenge to such as abused her.

AS our *Ursula* grew up to *riper years*, she was often *affronted*, by reason of *her deformity*, but she never fail'd to be *revenged* on those that did it: As one day *all* the chief of the Parish being together at a *merry* meeting, she coming *thither* occasionally on an *Errand*, some of them abused her by *calling her*, The *Devils Bastard*, and *Hag-face*, and the like; whereupon she went away *grumbling*, but so *ordered* affairs, that when they was set down to *Dinner*, one of the *principal* Yeomen, that thought himself spruce and fine, had in an instant his Ruff (which in those days they *wore*) *all* off, and the Seat of an House of Office clapt in its place; he that sate next him bursting out into a *laughter* at the sight *hereof*,

was

was ſerved *little better*, for his Hat was invi-
ibly convey'd away, and the Pan of a Cloſe
ool which ſtood in the next Room, put on
inſtead thereof. Beſides this, a modeſt young
Gentlewoman that ſate at the Table at the
ame time, looking at theſe two *worthy ſpecta-*
les of *mirth*, endeavour'd *all* ſhe could to Re-
rain laughing, but cou'd not, and withal con-
inued *breaking* of wind *backward* for above a
arter of an *hour together*, like ſo many
broad-ſides in a Sea-fight, which made *all* the
company laugh ſo *extreamly*, that the Maſter
of the houſe (being the chief Inn in the *town*)
was alarm'd below *therewith*, and *deſirous* to
hare with his Gueſts in *their mirth*, came
unning up *Stairs* as faſt as his Legs would
arry him, but being about to enter the *door*,
he could not, and no *wonder*, ſince the oldeſt
man living never ſaw a *larger pair* of *Horns*
than he had on his Head: But whilſt they
were gazing on one another, as more than
half diſtracted, they were all reduc'd to the
ſame condition they were in at firſt, *after*
which followed a noiſe, as if *more* than a *hun-*
dred perſons were laughing together, but no
thing was ſeen.

Chap.

CHAP. V.

How Ursula *married a young man named* Toby Shipton, *and strangely discovered a Thief.*

OUr *Ursula* was now *arrived* at the Fou and twentieth year of her age, and th she was none of the prettiest Maids in th Town, as you may *remember* by her descrip tion, yet she long'd for an husband as much the *best* of them, & at last obtained her desire For whether she used any *Love-powder* o *charms* to enamour him, or whether *the* hope of getting some money, which she was repor ted to have, tho' no body could tell how sh should come by it, caused him to *court her*, (some men *there are* that would not only *ma ry* the Devils daughter, but his dam too fo mony) I cannot *certainly* inform the Reader but a Sweetheart she had, named *Toby Shipto* by Trade a *Carpenter*, to whom she was short y after *married*, and very comfortably they ved together, but never had any children. It hapned about a Month after her *marriage* ne of her Neighbours leaving her *door* care lessly

esly open, lost a new Smock and Petticoat, stolen away while she was *telling* a Gossips tale of an hour long at next door, *whither* she went to fetch Fire; which misfortune much troubling her, she made her moan to our Mother *Shipton*, who did not go about like our *little silly* Conjurers, with their Schemes and figures to give a *blind description* of she *knew* not whom, but roundly *told* her such a Woman by name had stolen the things, adding, that she would make her *restore* them with a name to her; and so indeed she did; for the next Market day before *all* the people this Woman *could* not avoid putting on the Smock over *her other* clothes, and the Petticoat in her hand, and so marched through the croud into the *Market-cross*, where the other was by Mother *Shiptons* directions to receive them, dancing all the way, and singing these words:

I stole my Neighbours Smock and Coat,
I am a Thief, and here I shew't.

And so when she came to the owner, pull'd off the Smock, and gave her her own with a *severend courtesie*, and so *departed*. Chap.

CHAP. 6.

Her Prophesy against Cardinal Woolsey.

BY these and several the like exploits, Mother *Shipton* had got a name *far* and *near* for a cunning woman, or a woman of the *first sight*, so that her *words* began to be counted *Oracles*, nor did she meddle only with *private persons*, but was advised with *concerned people* of the *greatest Quality*; among which *number* at that time was Cardinal *Woolsey*, when it was *reported*, that he intended to live at *York*; she *publickly* said, *He should never come thither*; which coming to his ear, and being much offended, he caused *three Lords* to go to her, who came disguised to *Ring-house* near *York*, where leaving their men, they took a Guide and came to Mother *Shipton's*, where knocking at *her door*, she cryed out within, *Come in Mr.* Beasly (their Guide) *and those Noble Lords with you*. Which much *surprized* them that she should know them, for when they came in, she *called* each of them by their names and *treated* them with Ale and Cakes, where upon

upon said one of the Lords, *If you knew our Errand, you would not make so much of us*, you said the *Cardinal should never see* York. *No*, said he, *I said he might see* York, *but never come at it*; *Well*, saies the Lord, *when he does come thou shalt be burnt*. Then taking off her Linnen Kerchief from her head, saies she, *If this burn, then I may burn*; and immediately flung it into the fire *before* them, but it would not burn, so that *after* it had lain in the flames a *quarter* of an *hour*, she took it out again not so much as singed. Hereupon one of the Lords askt her what she thought of him, *My Lord*, said she, *the time is coming when your Grace will be as low as I am, and that is a low one indeed*. Which proved *true*, for *shortly after* he was beheaded.

Nor was *her* speech of the *Cardinal* less verified, for he coming to *Cawood*, went to the top of the *Tower*, & askt where *York was*, which being shewn him, he enquired how *far* it was thither, *For* (qd. he) *there was a Witch said, I should never see* York. *Nay*, says one present, *your Eminence is misinformed, she said you should see it, but not come at it*. Then he vow'd to *burn* her

er when he came there, which was but eight
iles distant, but behold, immediately he was
ent for back by the King, and dyed of a vio-
nt Loosness at *Leicester*.

CHAP. 7.

ome other Prophecies of Mother Shiptons, *relating to these times.*

AT divers other times, when persons of Qua-
lity came to visit her, she delivered the se-
eral prophecies following, that is to say,

1 Prophecy.

Before Owse-bridge *and* Trinity-Church *meet,*
hey shall build in the day, and it shall fall in the night,
ntil they get the highest stone of Trinity-Church *to*
west stone of Owse-bridge.

Explanation.

This came to pass: for *Trinity Steeple* in *York* was
own down with a Tempest, and *Owse-bridge* bro-
n down with a Flood, and what they did in the
ay-time in repairing the Bridge, fell down in the
ght, till at last they laid the highest Stone of the
eeple for the Foundation of the Bridge.

2. Prophecy.

The North shall Rue it wondrous sore,
But the South shall Rue it for evermore.

3. Pro-

3 Prophecy.

You shall have a year of pining Hunger, & shall no
now of the Wars over-night, yet shall you have it i
the Morning, and when it happens, it shall last thre
years, then will come a woman with one Eye, and sh
all tread in many mens blood up to the Knee.

4 Prophecy.

Then may a Man take House or Bower, Land o
Tower for one and twenty years; but afterwards shal
be a white Harvest of Corn gotten in by Women; then
shall it be, that one Woman shall say to another, Mo
ther, I have seen a Man to day!

Unhappy he that lives to see these days;
But happy are the dead, Shipton's wife says.

5 Prophecy.

A time shall happen, when a Ship shall come sailing
up the Thames, *till it come against* London, *and the*
Master of the Ship shall weep, and the Mariners of
the Ship shall ask him why he weeps, since he hath mad
so good a Voyage; and he shall say, Ah! what a
goodly City this was, none in the world compa
rable to it, and now there is scarce left an House
that can let us have drink for our money.

Explanation.

These last words were sadly verified after
the dreadful Fire of *London*, 1666. when there
was not an House left all along *Thames*-side
from the *Tower* to the *Temple*; As for the

words *before*, they being darkly delivered, re not like to be understood, till time, that oth discovers and absconds all things, shall ring the matters signified to light.

CHAP. 8.

Her Prophecies in Verse to the Abbot of Beverly.

THe Abbot of *Beverly* giving her a Visit one day, told her, *That as he had found several things that she had formerly said to be exactly true, so he was perswaded she was not Ignorant in those which for the future were to ensue, and therefore requested her to impart some of her fore-knowledge to him, for which Favour tho' more than his deserts could command, yet) shall he neither want a Tongue to acknowledge, nor Heart to endeavour a Requital for so great an obligation.* Mr. Abbot, saies she, *leave off complementing, I am an old Woman, who will neither flatter, nor be flatter'd by any, yet shall answer your Desires as far as I may.* And thereupon did in mystick Verses discover to him the greatest Accidents that have happen'd in

En-

England, from that day to this, as in the following Explanations will appear.

Prophecy.

When the Cow doth ride the Bull,
Then Prieſt beware thy Skull.

Explanation.

By the Cow was meant *H.* 8. who gave the Cow in his Arms as Earl of *Richmond*, and the *Bull* betoken'd Madam *Ann* of *Bulloigne*, not only as the firſt ſyllable of her name, but because her Father gave the black *Bulls-Head* in his Creſt; and when the King *married her* immediately after hapned the Diſſolution of Monaſteries, and *reſtraints* laid on the Prieſts.

Prophecy.

For a ſweet pious Prince make room,
And in each Kirk prepare a Broom.

Explanation.

This is meant of King *Edward* the ſixth, in whoſe time the Proteſtant Religion was eſtabliſhed, and the Popiſh Superſtition ſwept out of the Kirk, an old word uſed *ſtill* in *Scotland* for the Church.

Prophecy.

Alecto *next aſſumes the Crown,*
And ſtreams of blood ſhall Smithfield *drown.*

Explanation.

These Lines decipher Q. *Mary*, called *Aletto* a name of one of the Furies) for her Cruelty o the Protestants, of whom great numbers ere then burnt in *Smithfield*.

Prophecy.

A Maiden Queen full many a year
Shall Englands *War-like Scepter bear.*

Explanation.

Spoken of Q. *Elizabeth*, who Reigned, exeamly Beloved by her Subjects, and dreaed by her Enemies, above *Forty Years*.

Prophecy.

The Western Monarch's *Wooden Horses*
Shall be destroyed by the Drakes *Forces.*

Explanation.

The King of *Spain's* mighty Navy in 88. estroyed by the *English* Fleet under Capin *Drake*.

Prophecy.

The Northern Lyon over Tweed,
The Maiden *Queen shall next succeed,*
And joyn in one two mighty States,
Then shall Janus *shut his Gates.*

Ex-

Explanation.

This relates to King *James*, who having been many Years King of *Scotland*, the Crown of *England* by Queen *Elizabeths* Death fell to him, whereupon he came over *Tweed* to take up his Residance here, and so joyned the two Kingdomes *under* one *Government*. And as for *Janus* shutting his Gates, you must know *Janus* was one of the Heathen gods, that had a Temple at *Rome*, the Gates of which were never shut but in times of Peace, alluding to which, *our Propheteſs* here declares the *peaceful* Reign of King *James*.

Prophecy.

Forth from the North ſhall miſchief blow,
And Engliſh Hob *ſhall add thereto;*
Mars *ſhall rage as he were wood,*
And Earth ſhall drunken be with blood.

Explanation.

This relates to our Late *lamentable* Civil Wars.

Prophecy.

But tell's what's next, Oh cruel Fate,
A King made Martyr *at his Gate.*

Meaning the Execrable *murther* of the mo

noſt *Excellent* Prince, *Charles* the Firſt.

The juſt King dead, the Woolfe ſhall then
With blood uſurp the Lyons Den.
But Death ſhall hurry him away,
Confuſion *ſhall a while bear ſway,*
Till fate to England *ſhall reſtore*
A King to Reign as heretofore;
Who mercy and juſtice likewiſe
Shall in his Empire exerciſe.

Theſe Prophecies we have ſeen *fulfilled* y *Cromwel's* Uſurpations, the Committee f Safetys Confuſions, and our Gracious Soeraign's Miraculous Reſtauration.

Prophecy.

Triumphant Death rides London *through,*
And men on tops of Houſes go.

Explanation.

The firſt Line points out the *great Sickſs* in *London*, 1665. And the ſecond the *eadful Fire* the Year following.

Let this ſuffice, the night comes on,
You muſt depart, and I be gone;
Apollo does forbid my Rhimes
For to unvail ſucceeding times.

Having

Having ſaid this, Mother *Shipton* aroſe, and the admiring Abbot (who took all theſe Prophecies you muſt conceive, in writing) giving her many Thanks, returned home.

CHAP. 9.

Of Mother Shiptons *Death, Burial, and Epitaph.*

THis famous Propheteſs continued ſeveral years eſteemed, as the Sybil or Oracle of theſe Times. At laſt, being Threeſcore and Thirteen Years of Age, ſhe found the time in the black Book of Deſtiny approaching, wherein ſhe muſt give a final adieu to the World, which ſhe foretold to a day, to divers people, and at the hour predicted, having taken ſolemn leave of her friends, laid herſelf down on her Bed, and dyed; on whom a Poet of this Age beſtowed this

EPITAPH.

Here lies ſhe who never ly'd,
Whoſe Skill ſo often has been try'd;
Her Prophecies ſhall ſtill ſurvive,
And ever keep her Name alive.

FINIS.

Books Sold by *J. Conyers* a little above Sr. *Andrews* Church in *Holbourn*.

1. MErry Jests of poor Robin the Sadler of Walden.
2. The Figure of Seven, new printed.
3. The new Academy of Complements. With a new Garland of Fifteen Songs.
4. The History of Reynard the Fox.
5. The History of Fortunatus.
6. The History of Doctor Faustus.
7. A new Book of Cookery.
8. Lilly's new Erra Pater,
9. Two Groatsworth of wit for a penny, Moles and Dreams.
10. Mother Shiptons Life and Prophecies.
11. An Hundred notable things for a penny.
12. The new Parliament of women.
13. The Rules of Civility; or the Art of good Breeding.
14. The English Mountebank: a Book of merry Conceits.
15. The Maids Complaint and Batchellor's Answer.
16. Dr. Lilly's last Legacy: A Book of choice Receipts of Physick and Chyrurgery.
17. The Distressed Welshman.

At the above-mentioned place any Chapmen may be furnished with all sorts of small Books.

57. 1225